



Utility & Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes February 13, 2013

Members Present:

Trustee Jeff Hicks, Treasurer Howard Pizzo, and Trustee R. Douglas Kosinski

Members Absent:

N/A

Staff Members Present:

Township Manager Richard Watkins, Deputy Township Manager Jen Roberts, and Utility Director Tom Morrissey

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Hicks at 4:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

N/A

3. Set/Adjust Agenda:

Motion was made by Howard Pizzo and seconded by R. Douglas Kosinski to accept the agenda as written. All agreed and motion carried.

4. Past Projects:

Tom Morrissey provided an overview, which included history, pictures and details of the \$100,000 Lansing Road Lift-station Rebuild, \$500,000+ Saratoga Lift-station Rebuild, and the Bio-Tower Rebuild. These projects flowed through the Utility Committee, with final approval by the Township Board.

5. Current Projects

Tom Morrissey updated the group on the 1.5 million dollar Radio Read Units project status, which was completed two years early. There are currently 9,187 Radio Read units installed, which are now talking to the Accounting Department. This project will not only be a cost savings, but also a manpower saving to the Township.

Tom also provided an overview of the Broadbent Water Main indicating there is a piece of pipe, which was built from the north to the south, and has a 3,000 ft. gap that needs to be completed. Tom requested that this water main be finished to provide a direct connect feed to General Motors. Per Tom, this is strictly an operational project, with hopes of enhanced

growth in the future for this area. Gary Arnold is engineering this project in-house with the help of the Community Development Department, which should be coming up for bid this spring.

Tom gave a short summary on the current situation and status of the Huntington Acres and Webster Road Water Main project, turning the subject over to Richard Watkins.

Richard reported that the Township had talked to the neighborhood, with regard to curb and gutter, stating it looks like Woodhaven is going to have sufficient petition signatures for a special assessment. The deadline for signatures on the petition is Friday, February 15th.

A discussion with regard to the Township for the curb and gutter project included the following items:

1. Costs of a special assessment
2. Scheduled payments on utility costs
3. Current standard rate
4. Bond rates (1% over bonds)
5. Proposed rate (5%)
6. Benefits to the Township
7. Sidewalks
 - Sidewalks currently in place
 - Proposed sidewalk placement
 - Those in favor of having sidewalks
 - Those who are against sidewalks
 - \$80–90,000 Township Investment
8. Fact that this project will happen with or without curb and gutter
9. Project funding
10. Pros and cons of the Road Commission doing the special assessment

Richard then stated that once the petition is received, the Township will move quickly to go through the Special Assessment process, and take it to the Township Board.

After much discussion, it was decided that this is a road issue, and Richard is to contact the Road Commission with regard to this project.

6. Possible Future Projects

Tom Morrissey provided an overview of possible future projects for the Township as follows:

Saginaw Highway from Nixon Road to the Delta Township Border – Tom Morrissey provided the following information:

- Most of the property in this area cannot support septic systems.
- A lot of the properties have been red tagged by Barry-Eaton Health Department.

- If development occurs in this area they will not be able to do so without sanitary sewer.

Oneida Township Sanitary Sewer – Tom Morrissey provided the following information:

- Several meetings and discussions have been held with the Oneida Township, primarily north side of Saginaw Highway, north of Sundance Chevrolet in Oneida that have some very serious red tags as part of their Eaton County Toast Program (an Eaton County Program where they have to have Eaton County check their well/septic tank, etc. before they can sell). Due to this a lot of people will be unable to sell their property.
- Shared a map of the projected area, providing details of those who are currently hooked up to our system, problem areas, storm sewers and possible concerns in the area.
- Oneida has applied for and received a grant to go in and do discharge point testing to see if there is fecal matter coming out into the river. If they find out there is fecal matter flowing into the river they may be knocking on our doors pretty quick.

A discussion followed with regard to being environmentally friendly, minimal financial gain to the Township, working with Oneida and being neighborly versus the City of Grand Ledge.

7. Bond Discussion

Richard stated that he is not ready to bring anything to the committee at this point with regard to bonds. He also stated that he is weighing different scenarios on what to do with regard to bonds, and shared his thoughts on the timeline, process of different projects, and their funding structure possibilities. Richard requested authorization to bring a referenda notice before the Board prior to the next Utility and Environmental Committee meeting, with a consensus of the Committee being agreed upon.

8. Municipal Utility Standards

Mark Graham is the book providing details for specifications for sewer and water, which includes maps, graphics, installation standards, site plan review, etc., which was done in 1975. He also provided an overview of the origin, which began in 2012, and status for the draft of an updated Municipal Utility Standard created by Gary Arnold. Mark then asked the Committee for direction on how to proceed from here and how or if they should take it to the Board.

A discussion occurred on whether there was anything controversial contained in the draft, changes that have been made to the current standard, and how it will affect contractors today.

Mark stated that this document is not in the Code of Ordinances, but the Code of Ordinance references it.

Howard suggested that a presentation to the Board at a Committee of the Whole Meeting be made, with all in agreement.

Jeff Hicks felt that a recommendation from this Committee would carry a lot of weight to the Board, and ultimately the Board would have final say. A motion was made by Howard to support the passage of the new Municipal Utility Standards. Motion supported by R. Douglas Kosinski. All agreed and motion carried.

9. Other Business:

Richard stated that he had heard that the Board of Water & Light is going to give us a 0% rate increase this year, but has not been confirmed at this point. As soon as Richard receives a confirmation on this a recommendation will be made to this Committee on any rate increase, which should occur within a month or two.

Jeff Hicks asked that the Committee set a recurring schedule for future meetings. A discussion occurred regarding individual schedules, with a decision made by all to hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.